

The first entry "e.10" in the "Number of Birds" column relates to the period when I first began to notice the birds of prey but had not realized there was a steady passage. The record of "several" kestrels means that a number passed at once too quickly for an estimate of their number to be made.

—D. A. ROOK, Nedlands.

Recent Records of the Mardo (*Antechinus flavipes*) in South-Western Australia.—John Gilbert, during his field work on natural history in Western Australia between 1839 and 1843, found the Mardo or Yellow-footed Marsupial-Mouse (*Antechinus flavipes leucogaster*) to occur fairly commonly from the Moore River in the north to the vicinity of King George's Sound in the south (H. M. Whittell, *W.A. Nat.*, 4, 1954: 106). Subsequently the species underwent an eclipse in abundance and L. Glauert (*ibid.*, 4: 130) suggested that it had possibly become extinct as, at the time, no specimen had reached the W.A. Museum since 1939. B. J. Marlow (*Marsupials of Australia*, Brisbane, 1962: 18) reports it as probably extinct in Western Australia. In the eastern States the species appears to have remained quite plentiful (C. W. Brazenor, *The Mammals of Victoria*, Melbourne, 1950: 25; B. J. Marlow, *C.S.I.R.O. Wildlife Research*, 3, 1958: 80).

However, there are now several recent records from South-Western Australia, suggesting that this is yet another species of native mammal which has entered on a cycle of relatively greater abundance (*cf. W.A. Nat.*, 4, 1954: 128).

On February 3, 1953, the W.A. Museum accessed a female specimen from Kulin; it is now represented in the collections as a skull (W.A.M. No. 3450). On March 17, 1960, the Museum received a male specimen (M3983) collected by Mr. R. Lehmann six miles north of Cranbrook. On January 14, 1962, I collected two specimens at Two People Bay, east of Albany, a male (M4899) and a female (M4900). On June 11, 1962, the museum received a fresh male specimen (M5075) from Mr. K. S. Blond who obtained it one mile east of Cowaramup.

The two specimens collected by me were taken at the site where the Noisy Scrub-bird (*Atrichornis clamosus*) was recently rediscovered at Two People Bay (H. O. Webster, *W.A. Nat.*, 8, 1962: 57 and 81). One individual was seen running up the trunks of small trees (*Agonis flexuosa*) on the margins of a thickly vegetated fresh-water dune swamp and the second was seen with a small piece of bread in its mouth leaving a nearby corrugated-iron holiday cottage. Another was observed running with great facility in bursts of activity followed by short periods of inactivity along tree-branches and, in agile fashion, hopping about in the open. The species became active towards sunset. Several specimens of the Western Swamp Rat (*Rattus fuscipes*), whose runs are numerous in the swamps at Two People Bay, were also collected. Dr. and Mrs. Ride had also collected this rat at this locality in October 1959 in traps baited with bread.

E. Troughton (*Furred Animals of Australia*, Sydney, 1954: 25) states that the Mardo favours stony country, but the south coast habitat is mainly the dense vegetation fringing swamps and it probably lives in hollow logs and under fallen trees. The margins of the dune swamp in which the Two People Bay animals occur are vegetated with dense scrub up to ten feet in height consisting of peppermint (*Agonis flexuosa*), prickly wattle (*Acacia decipiens*) and *Logania* (*L. vaginalis*), with a dense undergrowth of sword sedge (*Lepidosperma gladiatum*), saw sedge (*Gahnia trifida*) and bog rush (*Schoenus* sp.) entangled with dodder (*Cassytha racemosa*) and thickly matted with grasses, mainly bent grass (*Agrostis aemula*), mat grass (*Hemarthria uncinata*) and tussock grass (*Poa australis*). Dwarf trees, namely banksia (*B. littoralis*), river banksia (*B. verticillata*) and paper-bark (*Melaleuca cuticularis*), occur sparingly and nearby there is a large stand of fairly tall yate (*Eucalyptus cornuta*), the undergrowth of which is identical with that described above.

I am indebted to Dr. W. D. L. Ride, Director of the W.A. Museum, for information on the museum material and for discussing this note with me, and to Mr. R. D. Royce, Government Botanist, for plant identifications.

—JULIAN FORD, Attadale.

An Aboriginal Site at Wiluna.—Kevin Morgan, Roger Howlett and the author made some observations of rock circles and artefacts at North Pool near Wiluna during August, 1961. North Pool is a large permanent water-hole on Negara Creek, 16 miles north of Wiluna. It is marked on Map No. 8 of the ten mile series of the Lands and Surveys Department. The pool is surrounded by three low rocky hills, which rise about 60 feet from the flat plain of red sandy soil. The hills are composed of coarse-grained quartzite rock which has weathered into rough boulders and fragments on the hills, with smooth pebbles on the plain nearby.

Near the crest of the hill, to the west of the pool, three rock circles were found. They were fifteen yards apart, in a straight line, and on the same level. On the hill to the east of the pool, on either side of the crest and about 25 yards apart, there were two similar circles. These five circles were all of a similar size and design, namely, a bare level earth floor fringed with large rocks arranged in a rough circle, six feet in diameter (Museum photo No. A.P. 280). In addition, on the stony plain near the northern slope of the hill to the east of the pool, were two circular bare areas. These were also six feet in diameter, but were not completely fringed with stones.

On the hills, and to a lesser extent on the stony plain, scattered quartzite chips were found, none of which could be positively identified as artefacts. However, a number of fine-grained pieces of chert, a rock foreign to the area, were found near the two circles on the plain. These pieces were invariably scalloped or chipped. One piece, a small, neatly shaped cutting tool (Museum No. A 14379) was found within one of these cleared circles on the plain.